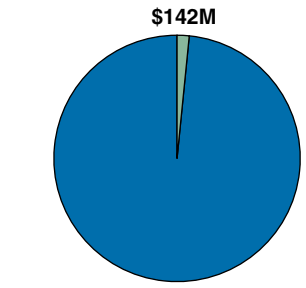


Note: EPA FY 2000 Obligations were $8,974 million

GOAL 7: EXPANSION OF AMERICANS' RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.

OVERVIEW

EPA's right-to-know goal reflects the Agency's commitment to provide the public with information that will help protect human health and safeguard the natural environment. The American public has a right to know about the quality of the air it breathes, the water it drinks, and the food it eats.

The Agency has shifted the focus of Goal 7 to better reflect the priorities set by the Agency when it centralized information policy, management, and technology in a new Office of Environmental Information. EPA's vision for Goal 7 is that environmental information be a strategic resource to enhance public health and environmental protection. This vision, adopted in EPA's revised Strategic Plan that was issued in September 2000, should influence activities at every stage of the information life cycle: creation, storage and management, and analysis and dissemination. This new vision retains the Agency's commitment to the public's right to know about the environment, and strengthens it with a new commitment to ensure the quality, availability, and security of meaningful environmental information.

To attain this vision, the Agency focused on four major areas during FY 2000: protecting and enhancing the quality of environmental information; integrating information; improving access to information; and strengthening information security to keep pace with new threats and technology.

FY 2000 PERFORMANCE

FY 2000 proved to be a successful year for information management in EPA. The Agency achieved all of its annual performance goals and measures under Goal 7 and made progress toward the vision of information as a strategic resource to enhance public health and environmental protection, particularly in the four main areas of focus.

Protecting and Enhancing the Quality of Environmental Information

To ensure the strong leadership needed for improving the quality of EPA's information, EPA established the Quality and Information Council (QIC) made up of representatives from the Agency's senior management. In FY 2000 the QIC presided over an assessment of the quality of information in four of the Agency's data systems. The assessment showed that the data in these systems are of high quality and are appropriate for their intended uses. The QIC also began to develop a Data Quality Strategy that will be the blueprint for enhancing the quality of environmental information.

To address the quality of data in EPA's publicly available data sets, EPA developed and implemented the Integrated Error Correction Process (IECP) for reporting and resolving errors identified by the public. The IECP was implemented in the Envirofacts Facility Information system (**http://www.epa.gov/enviro**) in May 2000 and has made error-reporting tools more prominent and easier to use. It is now used for 11 major EPA data systems.

Integrating Information

To improve the management, utility, and availability of environmental information, in FY 2000 the states and EPA began a joint effort to plan a comprehensive data exchange network that will provide a wide range of information that can be shared among EPA, states,

tribes, localities, the regulated community, and other data partners. The national network will extend beyond past EPA information integration efforts and ensure that future integration efforts by EPA and its partners and stakeholders are consistent and complementary.

EPA's information integration priorities in FY 2000 emphasized creating the building blocks needed for the exchange network including establishing common data standards for environmental information systems, creating a centralized system for electronic data exchange, and establishing an electronic registry for facility identification information.

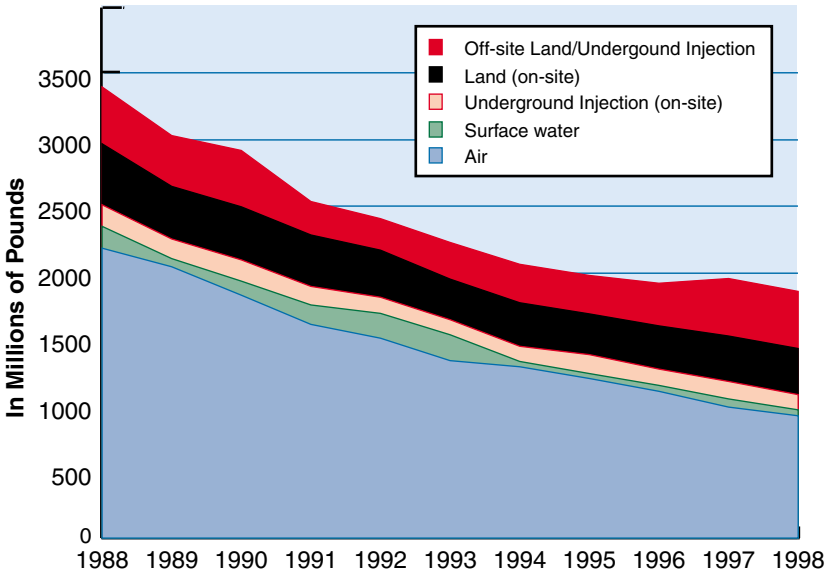
For integration efforts to succeed, the Agency must continue to strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders. EPA, the states, and tribes established the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) to identify and develop the next set of data standards to be used in collecting, storing, and retrieving environmental data in their respective systems. In FY 2000 the Agency and its partners took several steps toward easing the reporting burden, facilitating data integration, and improving data quality. EPA's Central Data Exchange received official Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) submissions from 80 facilities in Illinois via the Internet. The Agency received the first file with a digital signature from Pennsylvania and also began testing data exchanges with six other states, hoping to conduct exchanges with additional states in FY 2001. The Facility Registry System, a centrally managed database that identifies facilities subject to environmental regulations or of environmental interest, is now populated with more than 70,000 records. This system will contain 250,000 records by September 2001.

EPA and its partners are moving toward a shared information network. The Agency's One-Stop Reporting Program creates incentives for states to reinvent environmental information management practices through grants and technical assistance. States have undertaken a number of activities under One-Stop, including expanding web sites to improve access; establishing links to EPA databases; integrating isolated, media-specific data sets; and implementing geographic information systems (GIS) to map facility locations. Additional information on the One-Stop program can be found at **http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/onestop**. In FY 2000 the One-Stop Program met its goal to increase the number of states participating in the program by nine. There are currently 34 states in the program.

Improving Access to Information

FY 2000 brought a number of significant achievements in the TRI Program, which publishes data on toxic pollutants released into the environment. It is one of EPA's most visible right-to-know programs. On May 11, 2000 the Agency released the *1998 TRI Public Data Release Report*, which included data for seven new industry sectors, including electric utilities; metal mining; coal mining; chemical wholesalers; petroleum terminals; solvent recovery; and hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. These sectors accounted for nearly 2,000 new facilities and more than 15,000 chemical reports addressing nearly five billion pounds of toxic chemicals, increasing the quantity of chemicals accounted for in the TRI Database by 67 percent. The 1998 TRI data are available on EPA's web site at **http://www.epa.gov/tri/tri98**. The chart, which displays trend data for the core set of TRI chemicals and manufacturing sectors (that is, it does not include data from the seven new industry sectors), shows a marked decrease in releases over the past 10 years. [Note: Goal 4 contains a more in-depth discussion of the trends in the volume and toxicity of TRI wastes.]

TRI Releases, 1988-1998 (using the 1988 core set of chemicals and manufacturing sectors)



Total releases to air, land, water and underground injection have decreased by 1.5 billion pounds or 45% since 1988. Data from the seven new industry sectors that began reporting in 1998 are not included in this graphs.

In May 2000 EPA upgraded the TRI Explorer, an Internet tool that provides fast and easy access to reliable environmental information, making it easier for the public to identify facilities and chemical release patterns in their communities. The latest version provides three times the amount of information available in the previous version and is available on EPA's web site at **http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer**.

Under the TRI Program, EPA is responsible for establishing reporting thresholds for chemical releases to the environment. In FY 2000 the Agency published a final rule lowering the TRI reporting thresholds for persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals and adding seven more PBT chemicals and two PBT chemical compound categories to the list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting. The first year of PBT chemical reporting was calendar year 2000 and the reports are due to EPA by July 2001.

The Agency met or exceeded all of its established annual performance measures for the TRI Program. These included publishing the *1998 TRI Public Data Release Report*, processing 119,000 TRI submissions and revisions from industry, and continuing work on peripheral modules to the new version of the TRI System.

EPA also remains committed to providing real-time monitoring data to communities through its Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) program (**http://www.epa.gov/empact/index.htm**). The EMPACT Program has continued to expand its assistance to local communities in building capacity for real-time monitoring, management, and communication of environmental information. Currently the program, through a network of more than 300 community-based partners, has helped implement real-time environmental monitoring projects in over 90 cities across the United States. These partnerships include state and local governments, tribes, federal agencies, non-profit groups, universities, and other private organizations. In addition to providing grants directly to local communities and supporting projects that partner EPA program and regional offices with local communities, the EMPACT Program has moved into new areas to increase the public's right to know through the institution of technology transfer and integration/networking projects. These projects will allow the transfer of existing EMPACT projects into new communities, as well as the integration of data from multiple projects to provide a more comprehensive source of information in a specific community.

EPA reached another milestone in increasing the public's access to environmental information that affects their lives on a daily basis. During FY 2000 most Americans received their first annual drinking water quality report from their local water supplier. October 19, 1999 was the first federal deadline for these consumer confidence reports, which tell consumers of public water systems the source of their local tap water, contaminants detected, the likely source of the contaminant, health advice for sensitive populations, and where to go for more information. These reports represent the most widespread right-to-know information provided directly to consumers in EPA's history. Water systems and states were extremely successful in getting these reports out on time. Approximately 53,500 community water systems, serving approximately 253 million people, met the statutory deadline.

Communities have a right to know about the different forces that affect their local environments. EPA's Sector Facility Indexing Project (SFIP) uses the Internet to provide the public with facility-level information in five industrial sectors and is being expanded to also include a subset of federal facilities. The database brings together existing information from a number of Agency data systems and can provide data on a facility's compliance and enforcement history, production capacity, releases and spills, and the demographics of the surrounding community in a single location on the Internet (**http://www.epa.gov/oeca/sfi**). EPA is also committed to making its enforcement-related policy and guidance documents available to the public. In FY 2000 the national enforcement and compliance assurance program exceeded its goal by making 94 percent of its policy and guidance documents available through the Internet. Refer to the Tables of Results for further explanation, including a discussion of the Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis system (IDEA), a tool designed specifically for states, local governments, and federal agencies to access enforcement data.

EPA is working to ensure that no segment of the population or no community bears a disproportionate amount of burden from adverse environmental conditions. The Agency manages an assistance program to help communities; state, tribal, and local government

agencies; grassroots organizations; and other non-governmental organizations become knowledgeable about environmental laws, and to address local environmental and human health concerns. In FY 2000 EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program awarded 62 grants totaling approximately $900,000. The Agency has also continued to improve public consultation by working with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), which was established in 1993, and particularly by increasing the number of meetings that focus on issues (such as permitting) that are central to the concept of environmental justice for all.

EPA's web site (**http://www.epa.gov**) continues to be an important tool for providing the public with access to environmental information and its popularity continued to grow in FY 2000. Statistics from the month of September 2000 showed a 47 percent increase in the number of visitors over the same period in FY 1999. Also, in a recent survey by *Federal Computer Week,* EPA's site ranked in the top 15 most effective web sites based on the utility of the information on the site, its organization, and ease of use. The number of pages EPA offers reached 525,796 (an 88 percent increase over FY 1999), and the number of other sites with links to the EPA site grew to 796,103 (a 25 percent increase over FY 1999).

For Earth Day 2000 EPA released a new, more user-friendly version of its web site that included improved search capabilities and introduced the popular topics format common to most informational sites. The new organization and topic buttons help users quickly get to where they want to go. The "Browse EPA" topics page has been enhanced so that visitors can more easily find the information they need within 16 main topic areas, including water, air, pollution prevention, enforcement, and environmental management. The Agency has received many favorable comments on the redesign from visitors to the site.

Strengthening Information Security

The availability and reliability of environmental information depend on the security of the technology platform on which the information resides. EPA made substantial progress toward ensuring the security of its information assets in FY 2000. Following an audit by the General Accounting Office (GAO), EPA temporarily disconnected its network from the Internet to accelerate installation of improved security features. Since February 2000 the Agency has taken steps to further separate the entire EPA Wide Area Network from the Internet; implement better approaches to monitor, detect, and deter Internet attacks and unauthorized users; conduct formal reviews of information security plans; update EPA's regulations for handling confidential business information and implementing the Freedom of Information Act to ensure adequate protection of information; and increase the Agency's efforts to create a more security-conscious workforce.

To underscore the importance of these efforts, during FY 2000 EPA established a special Technical Information Security Staff to provide a focal point for protecting the Agency's information. The staff reports directly to the Agency's Deputy Chief Information Officer for Technology and is responsible for rapid enhancement of EPA's technical approach to protecting the integrity of information. EPA will continue addressing potential threats to its information systems in FY 2001.

STRENGTHENING PROGRAM INTEGRITY THROUGH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

EPA's major information-related management challenges–identified in one or more audits conducted by EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and GAO–focus on several major themes:

- *Information management.* EPA must continue to improve the management, comprehensiveness, consistency, reliability, and accuracy of its data to help better measure performance and achieve environmental results.
- *Information system security.* EPA must enhance the security of its information systems by minimizing the possibility of unauthorized access, use, modification, or destruction of the Agency's information resources.
- *Data accuracy and error correction.* EPA must improve data completeness, compatibility and accuracy.
- *Filling data gaps.*
- *Improving the collection of accurate data.*
- *Implementing a quality assurance program Agency-wide and with the states.*

- *Implementing procedures for data error detection and correction.*

As the discussion in preceding sections of this chapter shows, EPA, with a focus on information quality, integration, access, and security, is working to address these management issues. Although considerable progress was made in FY 2000, much remains to be done. Information management at EPA will be greatly enhanced with the development of a comprehensive Information Plan that establishes the framework for strategically identifying the information the Agency needs; matches the information and technology resources to meet the need; and establishes processes for addressing information needs, identifying potential data collection efficiencies, and seeking out opportunities to leverage information resources from outside EPA. Also the environmental information exchange network will require effort by EPA, the states, and tribes to move from its current fledgling stage to a fully operational network. Cultural and organizational changes in the way EPA, the states, and tribes plan for and implement new information systems and make improvements to existing systems will be needed. EPA will continue to improve the quality of its information systems and ensure that the Agency has management procedures in place to maintain an effective, consistent quality system. These efforts will remain a priority for the QIC in the future. EPA must also retain its vigilance over information security and take steps to ensure use of the best available information security tools.

Many of the Agency's programmatic and enforcement decisions are based on environmental data produced by EPA's research and analytical laboratories. Data that are timely and of the appropriate quality are critical to understanding environmental processes and to making decisions that will support the protection of human health and the environment. The OIG has noted some concerns about the quality of laboratory data, which led the Agency to declare laboratory quality systems practices as an internal Agency weakness. EPA completed technical reviews of its regional laboratories during FY 2000 and will complete reviews of the remaining Agency laboratories in FY 2001. Section III, FY 2000 Management Accomplishments and Challenges, provides additional discussion on ongoing and future corrective actions that will ensure all environmental data submitted to and used by the Agency, whether from EPA's or other laboratories, are produced using appropriate systems and controls and meet the Agency's data quality needs.

Please see Section III - *Management Accomplishments and Challenges* for a further discussion of the above issues.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Research under Goal 7 supports efforts to enhance the Agency's ability to protect human health and the environment by providing sound environmental information to federal, state, local, and tribal partners. FY 2000 research concentrated on the development of data interpretation and risk communication tools to provide timely, relevant information to the public and environmental decision makers. Research results that assist in environmental decision-making were provided to internal and external users through various tools, databases, manuals, and guidance. For example in FY 2000, considerable progress was made in developing and populating the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS), a web-based inventory that focuses on the organization of descriptive information (metadata) for data sets, databases, documents, models, projects, and spatial data. The EIMS design also provides a repository for scientific documentation that can be easily accessed with standard web browsers at **http://www.epa.gov/eims/eims.html**. Research results in FY 2000 also provided consensus human health assessments of environmental substances of high priority to EPA, which were then incorporated into the Integrated Risk Information System and made publicly available at **http://www.epa.gov/iris/index.html**. EPA believes it is important for local government bodies and individuals to have access to this information, which can help them make more informed choices to protect human health and the environment.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

In the past few years GAO and OIG have released more than a dozen audit reports that address issues related to information quality and information management at EPA. These reports have guided work toward improving information management, quality, and security.

In addition to the findings of GAO and OIG, the Agency's TRI Program obtained an independent

assessment of its effort to develop new TRI reporting software for industry. The new system, called Toxics Release Inventory Made Easy (TRI-ME), will replace the Automated TRI Reporting Software (ATRS, available at **http://www.epa.gov/tri/atrs/**). TRI-ME, which is more user-friendly than ATRS, will be made available to the public to assist businesses in determining whether or not they need to file TRI reports. If they are required to submit reports, the system will provide the necessary forms. The assessment of the TRI-ME project concluded that TRI-ME is a beneficial and technically achievable project. Version 1.0 of TRI-ME will be released in spring 2001 as a pilot.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS OF FY 2000 PERFORMANCE ON FY 2001 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

FY 2001 Annual Performance Goals (APGs) under Goal 7 reflect successful performance in and performance measurement improvements over FY 2000. For example, the APG for enhanced public access to environmental information includes a target for all ten regions to have a web site with region specific enforcement and compliance information. This APG also includes several new measures in FY 2001 focused on increasing the availability of environmental information on the Internet. In FY 2000 and continuing in FY 2001, the Agency has been moving from a focus on public right to know to a broader focus on quality environmental information for all decision makers. As the new organizational structure for information management has taken shape, the Agency has been working to refocus the long-term goal and objectives to reflect EPA's vision of information as a strategic resource for improving environmental protection. In FY 2002 the Agency expects to refocus its annual goals and targets to reflect better this broader vision.

TABLES OF RESULTS

The following tables of results include performance results for the five FY 2000 Congressional APGs that appear in Goal 7. In cases where the FY 2000 APG is associated with an FY 1999 APG, the table includes the FY 1999 APG below the FY 2000 APG for ease in comparing performance. Additionally EPA is providing information on FY 1999 APGs that are not associated with any APGs in FY 2000.

Summary FY 2000 Performance
5 Goals Met | 0 Goals Not Met | 0 Other

GOAL 7 - EXPANSION OF AMERICAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

FY 2000 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES	FY 2000 Planned	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
BY 2005, EPA WILL IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY INCREASING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND DATA AVAILABILITY PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY IN DISPROPORTIONALLY IMPACTED AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.			
FY 2000 APG 54: The Agency will streamline and improve the information reporting process between state partners and EPA by increasing the number of state participants in the One Stop Reporting program from 29 to 38.	**38 states**	**34 states**	
(FY 1999) The Agency will streamline and improve the information reporting process between state partners and EPA by increasing the number of participants in the One Stop Reporting program (for a total of 29).			**25 states**
Explanation: Goal met. In FY 2000 "One Stop" added nine additional states to its roster of participants for a cumulative total of 34. [Note: The FY 2000 baseline (29 states) and target (38 states) did not take into account the lower than expected performance in FY 1999 (25 States).] EPA is now in the process of awarding $500,000 demonstration grants to these nine additional states to further their data integration efforts, improve data access, and reduce reporting burden. Additional information on the One Stop program can be found at **http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/onestop/.**			
Data Source: Manual system. EPA tracks the number of state participants in the program.			
Data Quality: Data are manually verified. There are no limitations on the use of this data.			
FY 2000 APG 55: Improve public access to compliance and enforcement documents and data, particularly to high risk communities, through multimedia data integration projects and other studies, analyses and communication/ outreach activities.			**No FY 1999 APG**
Performance Measures			
1. Percent of OECA policy and guidance documents available on the Internet.	**90%**	**94%**	
2. Increase by 50% the number of states with direct access to Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA).	**21 states**	**34 states**	
Explanation: Goal met. 1. The Agency provides access to a wide array of compliance and enforcement documents and data via the Internet at **http://www.epa.gov/oeca**. In FY 2000 EPA's enforcement programs made 2,146 documents available. 2. The Agency is also working to improve state access to EPA data systems. In FY 2000 EPA increased the number of states with direct access to IDEA from 12 to 34 states by launching an Internet version of the Online Targeting Information System for states at **http://www.epa.gov/idea/otis**. [Note: Prior to FY 2000 states used the EPA mainframe or Windows version of IDEA. IDEA is a comprehensive system that provides multimedia information on the environmental performance of EPA regulated facilities. States can obtain historical profiles of EPA inspections, enforcement actions and associated penalties, and toxic chemical releases.]			
Data Source: Manual system. EPA tracks the dates documents are issued and uploaded to the Internet and monitors usage of IDEA.			
Data Quality: Data are manually verified. There are no limitations on the use of this data.			

FY 2000 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES	FY 2000 Planned	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
FY 2000 APG 56: **Ensure that EPA's policies, programs and activities include public meetings, address minority and low income community issues so that no segment of the population suffers disproportionately from adverse health or environmental effects, and that all people live in clean, healthy and sustainable communities consistent with Executive Order 12898.**			
(FY 1999) *Provide over 100 grants to assist communities with understanding and address Environmental Justice (EJ) issues.*			100 grants
Performance Measures			
1. Number of EPA-sponsored public meetings held where disproportionately disadvantaged communities participate.	25 mtgs.	31 mtgs.	
2. Number of grants awarded to low income, minority communities for addressing environmental problems.	70 grants	62 grants	
Explanation: Goal met. EPA is working to address this broad goal in a variety of ways and has established two surrogate indicators of progress: 1. EJ related public meetings, which help guide the Agency's national EJ program. In FY 2000 the number of meetings, which focused on issues such as facility permitting in low income communities and the health effects of populations living near multiple pollution generating facilities, exceeded the target. 2. EJ grants to community-based organizations working to carry out projects that increase citizen involvement in EJ issues. In FY 2000 the Agency received fewer eligible grant applications than expected. As a result, EPA's EJ Small Grants Program issued 62 grants totaling approximately $900,000. [Note: approximately $135,000 came from EPA's Regional offices.] Additional information on the Agency's EJ activities, including meeting summaries and grant applications, as well as activities associated with the federal EJ interagency workgroup can be found at **http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ej**.			
Data Source: Manual system. Action items from public meetings and the number of EJ grants are tracked internally. The grants are also entered into the Agency's grant tracking system for financial tracking purposes.			
Data Quality: Data are manually verified. There are no limitations on the use of this data.			
BY 2005, EPA WILL IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN HEALTH RISKS BY MAKING CURRENT, ACCURATE SUBSTANCE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION WIDELY AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE.			
FY 2000 APG 57: **All community water systems (CWSs) will issue annual consumer confidence reports according to the rule promulgated in August 1998.**			
(FY 1999) *EPA will partner with the states in implementation activities that will ensure all public water systems – large, medium, and especially small – are informed of both the requirements of the consumer confidence report regulation and implementation tools for complying with this rule.*			50 states
Performance Measures			
- CWSs that will comply with the regulation to publish consumer confidence reports.	~55,000	53,500	
- Population served by CWSs that will comply with the regulation to publish consumer confidence reports.	249 million	252.8 million	
Explanation: Goal met. The number of CWSs is constantly changing due to consolidation and other events that change the size of the regulated universe. By the fourth quarter of FY 2000 the total number of CWSs in the United States had dropped to approximately 54,000, down from an estimated universe of 55,000 a few years earlier, which the Agency used to develop this measure.			

FY 2000 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES	FY 2000 Planned	FY 2000 Actual	FY 1999 Actual
Approximately 500 systems (<1% of the universe) did not issue consumer confidence reports by the October 19, 1999 deadline. These are very small systems, e.g., trailer parks. States and EPA are working with these systems to provide technical assistance. The Agency has already followed up with a number of actions to assure compliance and will continue to do so as appropriate. Many of these systems have since provided the information and EPA expects the remainder to comply with this regulation in FY 2001.			
Data Source: The Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) serves as the central repository for data on both the states' implementation of and compliance with existing and new drinking water regulations. States and EPA regions (for "direct implementation" jurisdictions) enter data representing public water systems characteristics and drinking water monitoring into the SDWIS database.			
Data Quality: SDWIS has a full suite of software-based edit checks and quality assurance procedures to aid accurate data entry. However, there are recurrent reports of discrepancies between national and state databases, as well as specific mis-identifications reported by individual utilities. Given the particular need for confidence in the completeness and accuracy of data about drinking water quality, EPA designated SDWIS content as an internal Agency weakness in 1999 under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act.			
FY 2000 APG 58: Process all submitted facility chemical release reports; publish annual summary of Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data; provide improved information to the public about TRI chemicals; and maximize public access to TRI information.			
(FY 1999) Process 110,000 facility chemical release reports, publish the TRI Data Release Report, and provide improved information to the public about TRI chemicals, enhancing community right-to-know and efficiency processing information from industry.			**117,171**
Performance Measures			
1. TRI Public Data Release.	**1**	**1**	
2. Form R's Processed*.	**110,000**	**119,000**	
3. Toxics Release Inventor System (TRIS) database complete and report issued.	**2/2001**	**On target**	
Explanation: Goal met.			
1. There is a 15 to 18 month data lag associated with the release of TRI data due to reporting cycles and data QA/QC. In FY 2000 EPA issued The 1998 TRI Public Data Release Report (May 11, 2000). TRI is a valuable source of information regarding toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported, or released into the environment. The most recent report included toxic release data from seven additional industrial sectors. As a result of the inclusion of these seven new sectors, together with the manufacturing industry, the total amount of toxic emissions reported in the United States was 7.3 billion pounds. Additional information on TRI can be found at **http://www.epa.gov/tri**.			
2. *The performance measure as stated above is inaccurate. Facilities are required to report their annual TRI data (Form Rs or Form As) to EPA by July of the following year. Form R, a detailed report of facility activity and emissions, is used when a facility has exceeded EPA established threshold levels. Form A, a less detailed form, is used when a facility releases amounts of TRI chemicals that are below the established threshold. The Agency processes all the reports it receives. This includes Form Rs and Form As as well as revisions and the FY 1999 and FY 2000 results include Form Rs, Form As, and revisions. In FY 2000 the Agency processed 119,000 chemical submissions and revisions, which covered the calendar year 1999 reporting period.			
3. The Agency uses the TRIS data management system to process and store TRI data. Several peripheral modules are scheduled to be completed in time to issue the 1999 TRI Report (2/2001).			

FY 2000 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES		FY 2000		FY 1999
		Planned	Actual	Actual
Data Source:	Facility chemical release reports (Form Rs & Form As) submitted by the regulated community are input into and stored in the TRIS data management system.			
Data Quality:	The quality of the data contained in the TRI chemical reports is dependent upon the quality of the data that the reporting facility uses to estimate its releases and other waste management quantities. While the Agency does not control the quality of the data submitted by the regulated community, the Agency does work with the regulated community to improve the quality of their estimates. EPA also provides verification that the information delivered by the facilities is correctly entered into TRIS. Use of these data should be based on the user's understanding that the Agency does not have direct assurance of the accuracy of the facilities' measurement and reporting processes.			

FY 1999 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS
(NO LONGER REPORTED FOR FY 2000)

- Increase compliance with right-to-know reporting requirements by conducting 1,300 inspection and undertaking 200 enforcement actions.
- By 1999, complete five to seven monitoring pilot projects in Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) cities, implement timely and high quality environmental monitoring technology in five to seven EMPACT cities.